

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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S E C R E T GENEVA 6992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CSCE: POSITIONS OF ALLIES -PART 7-ICELAND

1. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, WE TRANSMIT BELOW OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE OF PARTICULAR CONCERNS WHICH ICELAND HAS IN CSCE. SINCE THE ICELANDIC DELEGATION IS QUITE SMALL AND TAKES A VERY LOW PROFILE IN GENEVA, OUR COMMENTS ARE GENERAL RATHER THAN SPECIFIC, AND IN MOST CASES RELATE TO SUBJECTS WHICH ARE OF BROAD CONCERN TO ALL OR MOST NATO ALLIES, AND OF WHICH THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE.

2. INFLUENCE OF NORDIC CAUCUS-- ALL THREE NORDIC ALLIES-- DENMARK, NORWAY, AND ICELAND-- ARE STRONGLY INFLUENCED IN THEIR APPROACH TO USCE BY THEIR DESIRE TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH THE INFORMAL NORDIC CAUCUS. SINCE THIS GROUP INCLUDES TWO NEUTRALS--SWEDEN AND FINLAND--THIS DESIRE OFTEN CONFLICTS WITH THE NORDIC ALLIES' WISH TO MAINTAIN NATO SOLIDARITY. THE GENERAL EFFECT IS TO MAKE THE NORDIC ALLIES MORE WILLING TO COMPROMISE THAN MOST OTHER ALLIES, AND TO REINFORCE THEIR DESIRE FOR AN EARLY CONCLUSION TO CSCE.

3. NATO CONSULTATIONS--ICELAND IS RARELY REPRESENTED AT CSCE MEETINGS, SIMPLY BECAUSE THE ONE OR TWO DELEGATES

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IT HAS HERE CANNOT POSSIBLE ATTEND ALL OF THE NEGOTIATING

SESSIONS (THERE ARE MORE THAN 40 PER WEEK). FOR THIS REASON IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE ICELANDERS TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE CONFERENCE OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEBATE ON MOST SPECIFIC POINTS. THEY ATTACH CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO BEING KEPT INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENT BY THEIR NATO COLLEAGUES, AND WHEN THE NATO CAUCUS HAS CLEARLY AGREED ON A LINE OF ACTION, THEY HAVE GIVEN IT THEIR SUPPORT.

4. SHARE NATO POSITIONS--ICELAND GENERALLY SHARES WESTERN OBJECTIVES IN ALL THREE BASKETS, AND HAS ONLY RARELY TAKEN SPECIAL POSITIONS.

5. FOLLOW-UP-- WHILE THE ICELANDIC DELEGATION HERE HAS NEVER EXPRESSED A POSITION OF FOLLOW-UP, WE WOULD EXPECT THEM FOR REASONS OF NORDIC SOLIDARITY TO BE RATHER RECEPTIVE TO A FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM ALONG THE LINES OF THE FINNISH PROPOSAL FOR A FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE.DALE

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